



Esprit de Corps

A bulletin of the Washington Service Corps

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Value of Service Highlights Gathering

The WSC hosted the Fall 2004 SERVES Institute at the Yakima Convention Center on October 12-14, 2004. Over 700 members and supervisors from across Washington came to participate in the conference. Representing almost 100 sponsoring agencies, the WSC AmeriCorps members spent three days in

learning, networking and serving. In addition to all the structured activities, AmeriCorps members donated over 50 units of blood to the regional blood bank.

Arlen Washines from the Yakama tribe, welcomed the Corps members and provided context with an insightful story relating to the land we were visiting and our mission of service.

The closing comments were made by the always perceptive Jeff Gaines, one of the SERVES trainers. Jeff not only led several jam-packed workshops, and provided the closing comments, he took a turn at BINGO calling, providing humor and energy during the Tuesday



Time is money and the people of Washington are receiving an excellent return on their investment. Nancy Pringle presents a check symbolizing \$21,158,695.52 to the Citizens of the State of Washington. During the 2003-2004 program year the 574 members of the Washington Service Corps and Reading Corps together with the 27,087 volunteers they recruited provided 1,230,872 hours of service to the people of Washington. Independent Sector, an organization representing non-profits, foundations and corporations estimates that each hour of volunteer work is valued at \$17.19, resulting in a computation of over \$21 million of service to the state. Receiving the check for the people of the State of Washington is Janet Bloom, Acting Assistant Commissioner of the Employment Security Department.

evening voluntary activity.

Ninety-seven workshops were presented in six time blocks across the three days of the conference. Workshop topics covered a broad range of topics in order to be useful to the broad range of activities in which WSC AmeriCorps are engaged. Topics included program evaluation, disaster preparedness, emergency management, diversity awareness, managing volunteers, problem solving, project planning, classroom management, mediation and facilitation.

The Spring SERVES will be held March 14-16, 2005 in Grays Harbor County.

**Responding to 2
election day**

**Staff Changes 2
at WSC**

**Your Ed 3
Award**

**AmeriCorps 3
Launch**

**Hurricane 4
Response**

**Elders & 6
Students**

**MAD Day of 7
Service**

Your Dedication to Service Brings Bi-Partisan Support

A note from



Nancy Pringle,
WSC Director

The election has come and gone (well, at this writing the Governor's race still hasn't gone - but by the time you read this you will know who the new Governor is). Some people are excited about the prospects of the coming term, some people are disappointed. Some people will see this time as an opportunity to

move to new challenges, others will keep serving where they are.

Those of us engaged in the service movement always have a reason to be positive about each election. It seems no matter which party or group wins, the service movement prospers. AmeriCorps and the Washington Service Corps share something with each and every person who is elected to office. We share a commitment to meeting needs of the people and the communities in which they live.

The Washington Service Corps began in 1983 with the leadership and support from Governor John Spellman, a Republican. It has continued with the

support of the Democratic governors after him. Federal national service programs began with the National and Community Service Act of 1990 enacted and put into motion with the support of President George H. W. Bush. Building on President Bush's initial programs, President Clinton gave them the name AmeriCorps and increased support. President George W. Bush made a commitment to continue and to increase AmeriCorps; his administration has brought an emphasis on measuring performance.

America is a country that on some days seems to be divided into the Blues and the Reds. One of our challenges is to see to it that those divisions

are relegated to election day, not the days after it. AmeriCorps has the stuff to bring America together. You have the stuff to serve the people of your community.

Largely because of the fine work you do, mostly because of the everyday miracles you accomplish, the Washington Service Corps and AmeriCorps have been able to stay out of the disagreements between the parties and the candidates. Your hard work has earned the support of elected officials. In your day-to-day labors, getting things done, you have demonstrated that national service is not about being a liberal or a conservative, about being a Republican or a Democrat: - AmeriCorps is about America.

Staff Changes at WSC as Schuffenhauer and Barbee Depart

Opportunity has knocked and long time staff members Debbie Schuffenhauer and Terri Barbee have opened new doors.

First to announce a change, Terri Barbee, Manager of the Washington Reading Corps, left on November 30th to take a position with the Employment and Training

Division of the Employment Security Department (ESD), the WSC's parent agency.

Debbie Schuffenhauer is departing to take a professional development position with the Southwest Washington Regional Office of ESD.

Describing her new position Debbie stated: "I will have an opportunity

to learn about the core business of the Employment Security Department's WorkSource Operations. Although I am excited about the opportunity that lies ahead, I am sad about leaving the WSC." She has been with the WSC since 1988 and has served as the Deputy Director since

1995.

The WSC is seeking to fill several staff positions. Please look for the links on our website <http://www.wa.gov/esd/wsc> for further information.

AmeriCorps Celebrates 10th Year at Annual Launch

Over 1,000 AmeriCorps members were sworn in for a year of service on Friday Morning, October 22nd at the Washington Commission for National

and Community Service's (WCNCS) launch of the 2004-2005 program year. Representing programs and projects from all over Washington, the members also celebrated the anniversary of AmeriCorps 10th Anniversary of Service to America.

Held at the Fisher



"I will get things done for America" pledge members of the 2004-2005 AmeriCorps class at the Seattle Center AmeriCorps Launch.

Pavilion on the grounds of the Seattle Center, members from the over 70 AmeriCorps and VISTA programs in Washington were invited to attend. Administering the formal oath of service was Barbara Stephenson, Kitsap County Treasurer and Chair of the WCNCS.

The program featured traditional Irish Step dancers from Scoil Rince Slieve Loug-hane taught by Dance Master Robert Haley and TTAAPP Central, a modern dance troupe from Seattle.

Also featured were several short talks from

AmeriCorps Alumni, representing the past decade of service. Of particular note among the alumni speakers was Trampus Stucker, a

former AmeriCorps member from Tonasket. Trampus, paralyzed from the chest down, told the story of his transformation from star high school athlete, to paralyzed crash victim, to AmeriCorps tutor and now a rock climbing college student who is earning his way through school as a motivational speaker.



Trampus Stucker, WSC/AmeriCorps 1999-2001, recipient of All-AmeriCorps Award.

Your Education Award—It's not "Free Money"

There are things you should know about the tax implications of your educational award. Here are some resources.

The education award, unlike most other forms of scholarships and fellowships, is subject to federal tax in the year the National Service Trust pays the voucher. Living allowances you received during your term of service and any interest the Trust paid on qualified student loans are also subject to income taxes in the years they were paid. When and how much of the education

award you redeem may have an impact on your overall income tax responsibility.

If the Trust makes a payment on qualified student loans to your school or lender for the entire amount of a full-time education award in one calendar year, you will be responsible for any income taxes owed in that calendar year on that \$4,725. If you redeem

only a portion of your education award in one calendar year, you will be responsible for any taxes owed on that portion.

The interest payments made on postponed qualified student loans are subject to income taxes in the calendar year in which the Trust makes the payments to the lender.

(Continued on page 6)

Hurricanes and Tornadoes Slam the Gulf Coast and I

In what has been the most active hurricane season in a decade, residents of Florida, Alabama, Puerto Rico, and at least seven other states on the east coast continue to recover from the devastation wrought by four major hurricanes -- Charley, Frances, Ivan, and

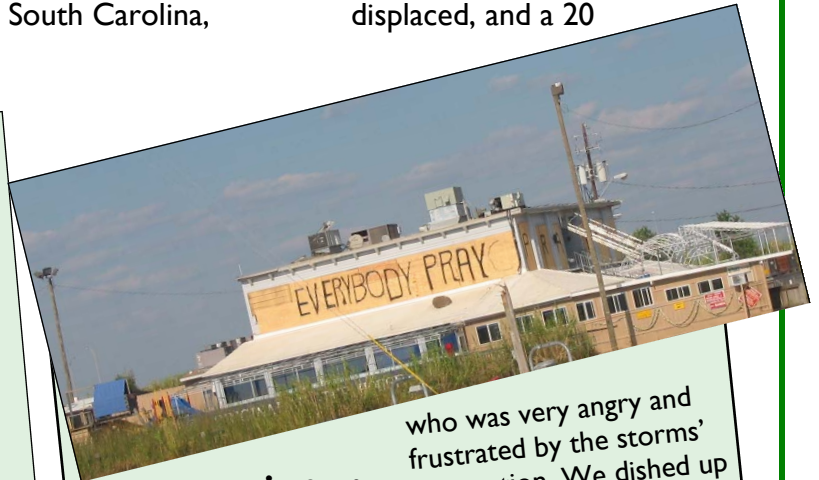
Jeanne. In all, the hurricanes and the other storms they spawned claimed more than 70 lives in the United States, damaged more than 100,000 homes, and disrupted the lives of millions. The hardest hit areas include Florida, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina,

Louisiana, western North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, and the panhandle of West Virginia. Florida, directly hit by all four storms, sustained the most damage with more than 15,000 homes destroyed, 120,000 persons displaced, and a 20

Matt Martino, a Ready Corps VISTA who served with the **Inland Empire Chap- ter of the American Red Cross** in Spokane

first learned he was going south on Friday, September 1. What he did not realize was that he would be leaving on Sunday, September 3! Matt and another Red Cross employee drove their Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV) on a 2500 mile journey to Mobile, Alabama. The amount of damage was overwhelming. "The debris, flooding, destruction and even a displaced alligator or two was

devastating on the local highways and back roads." When Matt drove his ERV into the hardest hit areas, local residents flocked to his truck by the hundreds. In the midst of such chaos and destruction the Red Cross symbolized something orderly and helpful. "People were so eager to talk with us and thank us. Being a part of such a widely recognized relief effort was incredible!" Upon his return on September 28, Matt participated in a live interview for Spokane's KXLY morning television show, "Let's Talk."



Leah Munion, an AmeriCorps Alliance Ready Corps VISTA serving with the **Mt. Rainier Chapter of the American Red Cross** in Olympia was initially sent to Atmore, Alabama. Like Matt, she was a Mass Care Technician but worked as part of an ERV support crew, responsible for warehouse operations and loading food and water onto Red Cross ERVs for distribution.

Leah was transferred to Pensacola where 27 tornadoes had touched down. She was given her own ERV, support crew and route to cover. During this time, Leah met some very interesting people. "I particularly remember one gentleman

who was very angry and frustrated by the storms' devastation. We dished up a plate for him and I personally offered to bring it to him. Before I went up, my team warned me that he would snap at me and tell me just to put it on the car. I told them not to worry, I'd be fine. When I approached the man, I will never forget the smile that grew on his face. Contrary to what my team had said, he was pleased to see me and pointing to his neck, he asked for a squeeze. A little confused, I asked if he wanted a hug and he said politely with his smile still on his face 'yes, ma'am!' No reward or recognition is better than a simple smile and a thank you from those you help."

East — Washington State Ready Corps Responds

percent loss in its citrus crop production. Florida also suffered 10,000 job losses.

As with all major disasters in our country, thousands of trained and untrained (spontaneous) volunteers responded to help those in need.

Among the trained responders were four Washington State Ready Corps AmeriCorps members who were indeed ready to go at the request of their host sites and local Citizen Corps Councils. These four AmeriCorps members

served three-week rotations working long hours in varying locations and varying jobs. Here then, are their stories.



Phillip Gloudemans, also an AmeriCorps Alliance Ready Corps VISTA member serving with the **Mt. Rainier Chapter of the American Red Cross** in Tacoma left for his assignment in Pensacola, on September 25. Serving out of a Red Cross Service Center at a Baptist Church, Phillips held the job of a Family Service Technician. In this capacity, Phillip and his co-workers physically visited people in their homes to determine if assistance was needed in terms of financial resources, materials and/or general information about the recovery

efforts. Although stressed, Phillip really enjoyed serving with the other volunteers. "I say, with no small amount of pride, that our team of family service technicians were the most independent and efficient case workers in the service center. They were also the most fun, being able to bring tears of laughter at the end of a grueling day." Family casework is an endless and tiring responsibility in the midst of such a destructive series of events. "Every day was full of problems; not enough time, not enough rest, too many clients and not enough resources to go around. However, at night, you remember only those words "thank you" and you feel better."



This composite photo illustrates the impact of the 2004 storm season on the Gulf Coast and Caribbean. (Courtesy of Coast Guard Reservist Magazine.)

Krista Howard, a Ready Corps USA member alumna who served with **Clark County Fire Districts 1&9** in Washougal, also had an opportunity to respond to the hurricane disasters. Shortly after the completion of her AmeriCorps term in August, Krista was successful in securing a Public Relations Officer position with the Federal Emergency Management Agency. She spent three weeks in September assisting the victims of Hurricanes Francis, Ivan and Jeanne. As a Public Relations Officer, it was her job to help local residents apply for federal assistance in recovering their lost and damaged property. Krista

notes "the size of the effected area was staggering, but I guess after four hurricanes you expect that. The worst part about the whole thing was that people were without power for weeks in some cases. People were really worried about each other; their neighbors, especially in the rural areas." Krista witnessed the kindness of people coming together in their time of need. "I was truly blown away by how kind the people were down there. Here is a lady, staying with her neighbors, who invited us in for tea. Right next door is her trailer and it is completely destroyed. How do you react to that?"

Students and Elders Cross Boundaries Together

With "passports" in hand, over 100 Adams Elementary fourth and fifth graders visited six foreign lands or cultures in the space of one afternoon. With a tongue twister of a name, the Cross-Generational Cross-Cultural Fair sponsored by Intergenerational Innovations in northwest Seattle was a great success.

Students learned about the Flamenco dance of Spain, the flag of Great Britain, the Bunader (historical costumes) and folk dances of Norway, cultural gatherings of the Aluet (Alaskan Natives), the art of paper folding in Viet Nam, and drumming and dance

from Senegal. The nine and ten year olds listened attentively and engaged in activities with the cultural volunteers all of whom were at least 70 years of age. "It is my experience," said Thelma Peterson Colman, a retired Seattle Schools teacher, "that by learning about other places and cultures, the children better understand where they are, and their own place in our unique American culture." Mrs. Colman, a member of the Sons of Norway, is a regular reading volunteer at Adams.

Nine other Intergenerational Innovation members from the



Students listen as Mrs. Colman, an Intergenerational Innovations volunteer, answers questions about Norway and the Norwegian items on display.

Seattle area pitched in to help Fawnia Chauvaux, the AmeriCorps member at Adams, organize and keep the activities flowing. Fawnia worked with the Adams teachers in preparing the students for the international event. With a

bachelor's degree in dance, Fawnia teaches an after-school dance troupe. She also choreographed the afternoon's climax, a group of Adams students dancing to the rhythm of Senegalese drumming.

Your Education Award (Continued)

(Continued from page 3)

The Trust **does not** deduct taxes from your education award or interest payments. After the calendar year in which the Trust pays your education award or interest payments, they send you a Form 1099 to be used in preparing your income tax return. The total sum of interest payments and

the education award are listed together on the 1099 form. For more information on the 1099, go to AmeriCorps website page on tax information. <http://www.americorps.org/members/resource/education/taxinfo.html>

Tax Relief

While you are responsible for taxes on your

education award and other AmeriCorps benefits, you may be eligible for other tax relief through the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997. See the AmeriCorps website page on tax credits (www.americorps.org/members/resource/education/taxcredits.html) or the U.S. Department of Edu-

cation's website page on the Hope Scholarship (www.ed.gov/offices/OPE/PPI/HOPE/index.html) for more information. Another good information source for questions about your education award is AmeriCorps alumnus Brandon Rogers at www.onechildleftbehind.com.

Intermountain Leads MAD Day of Service

Each year the members at Intermountain AmeriCorps (IMAC) organize and participate in three major service projects during their service term. The first event for the 2004-2005 service year was MAD Day, otherwise known as "Make A Difference Day" in October.

Last years' members lent a helping hand to Camp Zanika-Lache. Camp Zanika is part of the North Central Washington Camp Fire USA division

"Feed us S'Mores and we'll do anything."

organize and participate in three major service projects during their service term. The first event for the 2004-2005 service year was MAD



Intermountain AmeriCorps members teamed with the Reading Corps from ESD #101 to get the Camp Fire Summer Camp ready for winter.

again by Camp Fire to see if they would help with the annual winterization process at the camp. Always looking for great ways to serve, the members were more than willing to give a helping hand...or 2...or 80 or 100.

All 40 members joined in to help the camp with some general clean up and maintenance that needs to be done in order for the camp to prepare for the winter months.

The camp also offered IMAC members the opportunity to stay at the camp the evening before, using some of the heated cabins. A group of about 20 members arrived early and enjoyed an evening of campfires, s'mores and good conversation.

This year the IMAC crew also collaborated with a group of members from the Spokane area and invited them to take part in the service day as well. In all, 50 AmeriCorps members spent the day cleaning out multiple cabins, taking down tepees and tents, disassembling the High Ropes course, moving picnic tables into storage, creating burn piles for any

hazardous brush in and around the camp, trail cleanup and chopping and stacking wood for the winter and spring months.

Besides getting to stay over-



Andy Leneway helps take down High ROPES course

and helps to provide camp opportunities for youth who may not be able to afford fees.

Due to the huge difference that Intermountain AmeriCorps made at the camp the previous year, the AmeriCorps team was approached



Some people pay big bucks for a view like this. AmeriCorps gets you in free.

night for free, the camp also supplied a free breakfast and free lunch for all its volunteers. All tasks for the camp were completed, plus a few extra!

Washington State Employment Security

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Ready★corps

Washington State
SERVICE CORPS

Created by the State Legislature and Governor in 1983 the WSC provides residents of the state of Washington with opportunities to serve their communities. The WSC assists private non-profit organizations and units of local government in addressing community needs and providing meaningful service experiences.

Since 1992, the WSC has been a key player in the national service movement, engaging Americans of all ages and backgrounds in service that lights the darkness in communities across the nation. AmeriCorps members perform service having direct and demonstrable impact in the areas of education, the environment, human services, homeland security and public safety.

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LATE FLASH!!

A growing number of institutions of higher education are offering to match the education award, or are making other financial aid benefits available to AmeriCorps alumni, such as scholarships, tuition waivers, and in-state tuition. Attending one of these institutions can increase the value of your education award. For information on these additional benefits, contact National AmeriCorps Association (www.lifetimeofservice.org).



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